

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20
AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01
CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 ABF-01 PA-02 /141 W
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R 221545Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5870
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS RABAT 3763
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MO
SUBJECT: NEW MOROCCAN RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS

REF: RABAT 3334

1. ON JUNE 16, THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED THAT, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE KING'S DIRECTIVES TO REDUCE IMPORTS BY 20 PER CENT (REFTEL), SOME 190 ITEMS (FOR WHICH IMPORT LICENSES WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED - LIST A), WILL BE PLACED ON THE LIST OF PROHIBITED IMPORTS(LIST C) AS OF JUNE 19, 1978. THE NEW LIST OF PROHIBITED PRODUCTS INCLUDES LUXURY AND NONESSENTIAL ITEMS, PRODUCTS WHICH ARE ALREADY PRODUCED LOCALLY, AND ITEMS WHICH MAY BE REPLACED BY SIMILAR LOCALLY-PRODUCED ITEMS.

2. ON BASIS OF AVAILABLE FIGURES (CY 1976), TOTAL IMPORTS OF THE PRODUCTS IN THIS NEWLY PUBLISHED
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LIST AMOUNTED TO DH 265.5 MILLION (US\$ 59.5 MILLION) WHICH REPRESENTS 2 PER CENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS (DH 11,554.6 MILLION - US\$ 2,590.7 MILLION) AND 4 PER CENT OF THE 1976 TRADE DEFICIT (DH 5,975.3 - US\$ 1,339.75 MILLION). THIS IS TEN TIMES LESS THAN CALLED FOR THE KING'S SPEECH, AND PRESUPPOSES FURTHER LISTS OF IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

3. U.S. EXPORTS TO MOROCCO AFFECTED BY THIS PROHIBITION ARE MODEST. THEY ACCOUNT FOR DH 7.9 MILLION (US\$ 1.78 MILLION) OR 3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL. ITEMS MOST AFFECTED ARE: VELVET AND PLUSH (US\$ 730,000), IMPREGNATED AND COATED FABRIC (US\$ 176,000), OUTBOARD MOTOR-BOATS (US\$ 147,000), AND HOME REGRIGERATORS (US\$ 128,000).ANDERSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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